

# Police: Stay vigilant



**Kaila Contreras**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

As they continue to investigate the kidnapping of a UT Brownsville student, University Police are urging the campus community to be aware of their surroundings.

The student was released unharmed Feb. 3 by a man and a woman who forced him at gunpoint to give them a ride from Lot A1 to the Whataburger restaurant on International Boulevard.

Exactly a week later, university surveillance cameras showed two men coming out of the Fort Brown Memorial Golf Course by the border fence. One of those men entered the vehicle of a student who thought the man was a stranded driver.

According to a mass email sent to the campus community, at 8:21 a.m. Feb. 10, a white vehicle was trying to exit the parking lot and the suspect, wearing an orange shirt and blue jeans, was trying to hide in the back seat. The guard stopped the driver, who was a student, as U.S. Border Patrol officers arrived at the scene.

“We already had someone nearby the area so they were able to address the concern quite rapidly,” University Police Lt. Roman Ramos said in an interview with *The Collegian* on Wednesday. “This person did get into the vehicle of one of our students; the student was never threatened, never harmed. The student never feared for his safety, but [the suspect] did try to convince him to give him a ride somewhere else.”

According to the email, the student thought the suspect was a stranded motorist looking for help. The suspect was arrested and taken into custody by Border Patrol.

Ramos said because University Police and Border Patrol officers were nearby, they were able to address the situation quickly and made sure no one was harmed.

University Police and Border Patrol utilized three K-9 units in an attempt to locate the second suspect, who was wearing an aqua shirt and dark blue jeans, but he fled the area.

“That second suspect did not come towards our university,” Ramos said.

He said the department is continuing to view the security cameras shared with the Border Patrol as well as posting University Police officers in the parking

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# ‘Faculty Show’



HECTOR AGUILAR/COLLEGIAN

UT Brownsville Visual Arts Lecturer Stephen Hawks explains his “Just Past the 50 Mile Mark” (collaged paper and metal artwork) to sophomore art majors Cecilia Guzman and Andy Aceves during the 23rd “Faculty Show,” held Tuesday in the Art Gallery at Rustenberg Hall. The exhibit will be on display through March 6. Story, Page 7.

# Regents OK Vaqueros logo



**Jesus Sanchez**  
COLLEGIAN EDITOR

On Thursday, the University of Texas System board of regents approved University of Texas Rio Grande Valley President Guy Bailey’s recommendation of the Vaqueros logo for the new university.

UTRGV plans to publicly launch the Vaqueros brand next month.

Bailey’s recommendation of the Vaqueros as the athletic mascot for UTRGV was approved by the board of regents on Nov. 6.

Bailey then appointed a committee composed of students, faculty and staff from UT Brownsville and UT Pan American to help determine the look of the “Vaqueros” logo, according to documents provided for the regents meeting. UTRGV Athletics Director Chris King served as chair of the committee.

The UTRGV logo features a Vaquero riding a navy blue horse with the shape of the state of Texas found within the legs of the horse. The Texas Lone Star is featured within the letter “V” as well.

Bailey could not be reached for comment Thursday on the regents’ approval of the logo.

State Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) asked the UT System board of regents to delay its vote in finalizing the athletic nickname of UTRGV in a hand-delivered letter on Tuesday. As previously reported in *The Collegian*, Canales filed a bill that would allow UTRGV students to vote on an athletics nickname due to the uproar over the selection of the Vaquero as the mascot.

House Bill 901 calls for the ballot to include the Broncs, UTPA’s mascot; Ocelots, UTB’s mascot; and “any other

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# City address set Wednesday

**Karina Aguirre**  
THE COLLEGIAN



Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez will speak Wednesday to community leaders and planning experts on the future of the city.

According to the City of Brownsville website, Martinez will discuss the expected opportunities SpaceX will bring and the planning required to secure Brownsville’s future.

The State of the City address is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Brownsville Events Center.

In an open letter to the residents of Brownsville, Martinez encourages all to “save the date” to voice their opinion in the communitywide discussion.

Admission is \$50 per person. For more information on tickets, contact Rachel Figueroa via email at [rachel@cob.us](mailto:rachel@cob.us) or by phone at 548-6007.

# Professors improving prostate cancer treatment



Karen Martirosyan Steven Frank

**Michelle N. Garcia**  
THE COLLEGIAN

Two professors have received a patent for an MRI marker designed to improve prostate cancer treatment.

Karen Martirosyan, an associate professor of physics at UT Brownsville, and Steven Frank, M.D., an associate professor, medical director of the Proton Center and director of Advanced Technology in Radiation Oncology at

the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, received the patent in September.

Martirosyan joined UTB in 2010 and has since established two physics labs and the nanoscience program. Before joining UTB, he was an associate professor at the University of Houston, where Frank approached him about 10 years ago regarding a possible collaboration. The research began at the University of Houston and at the University of Texas

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, which is also located in Houston.

“I was looking for someone who had some expertise in the ability to develop unique solutions and the contrast agent,” Frank said in a telephone interview with *The Collegian*. “And he had been working on some additional projects at M.D. Anderson, and I sort of found him. I called him, introduced myself to him,

See PATENT, Page 6



# THE COLLEGIAN

The Collegian is the multimedia student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is an award-winning member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Monday Night Physics Renewable energy and thermodynamics** will be the topics of **Monday Night Physics**, scheduled from 7 to 9 tonight in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia. Admission is free. The event is sponsored by the **Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy**. For more information, email Joey Shapiro Key, the center’s director of education and outreach, at jkey@phys.utb.edu.

**Title IX seminars**  
Informational seminars about **sexual discrimination, harassment and misconduct** will be conducted from 12:15 to 1 p.m. on Wednesday and March 17 and April 21 in the Main Building’s Patio Paraiso. For more information, call the **Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities** at 882-5034.

**Substance abuse education series**  
**Student Health Services** will host an **HIV/STDs and Substance Abuse Education Series**. The series begins with “**Marijuana, Cigarettes and E-cigs**,” scheduled Wednesday; “**Drugs, Alcohol and Partying**,” March 3; and “**HIV and STIs 101**,” April 1. All lectures are scheduled from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia. For more information, call Student Health Services at 882-3896.

**Mic Night**  
The **Office of Student Engagement** invites students to **Mic Night**, featuring blues, pop and alternative musician **Mitch Clark**, at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Main Building’s Gran Patio. The event will include mocktails and performances by **Noche de Estrellas** winners. For more information, call 882-5033.

**Bilingual author at Writers Live**  
Bilingual author **Erika Said** will read from her collection of poems, “**iPoems**,” answer questions and sign books from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia. Admission is free. Said is a fiction writer and poet living in San Antonio. “iPoems” was published in Mexico in 2013 and will be

launched in its bilingual version in May by Slough Press. Her presentation is part of the **Writers Live @ UTB** series.

**Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán**  
In observance of Brownsville’s **Charro Days**, **Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán de UTB** will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center. The program will feature regional dances from the Mexican states of Tabasco, Campeche, Baja California, Jalisco, Veracruz, Sinaloa and Hidalgo. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the Health and Human Performance Department office or at the door. For more information, call 882-7678, or email Bertha Mujica at berthamujica@utb.edu.

**Research poster presentations**  
Local high school students will present **physics and astronomy research posters** from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday in the Student Union’s La Sala. For more information on the poster contest, visit the UTB Physics and Astronomy Department website: <http://www.phys.utb.edu/outreach/postercontest.shtml>. For more information, email Joey Shapiro Key, director of education and outreach for the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, at jkey@phys.utb.edu.

**Integrity Week seminars**  
The UTB **Dean of Students Office** and the **Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities** will sponsor a series of seminars in observance of **Integrity Week: “Integrity in the Job Search,”** Feb. 23; “**The Consequences of Academic Dishonesty**,” Feb. 24; and “**The Choices that We Make: What Would You Do?**” Feb. 25. All seminars will be conducted from 12:15 to 1 p.m. in the Main Building’s Patio Paraiso. For more information, call 882-5034.

**MCAT Preparation Scholarship**  
The **Office of Health Professions Careers** will award two **MCAT Preparation Scholarships** from Kaplan Preparation and Princeton Review. Both MCAT preparation

courses include the 2015 material. Access the application at <http://www.utb.edu/vpaa/csmt/ohp/Documents/MCATScholarship.docx>. For more information, call 882-5059.

**UTB Food Pantry**  
The **UT Brownsville Food Pantry** is accepting donations of non-perishable food items and hygiene products from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in Cortez Hall 140. Monetary donations also are welcomed. For more information, call the **ASPIRE** office at 882-8250.

**Life improvement**  
**Student Health Services** will provide free confidential peer support, cooking demonstrations, tips and best practices for exercising, healthy living and nutritional eating. The sessions are open to UT Brownsville students, faculty and staff and are scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 25, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22 and May 13 and 27 in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia. For more information, call Student Health Services at 882-3896.

**Ash Wednesday Mass**  
The **Catholic Campus Ministry** will celebrate **Ash Wednesday Mass** at noon Feb. 28 in the Student Union’s Gran Salón. For more information, call ministry office at 541-9697 or email **Karla Rodriguez** at [krdriguez@cdob.org](mailto:krdriguez@cdob.org)

**Alternative Spring Break**  
The **Center for Civic Engagement** and the **Office of Student Engagement** will conduct an **Alternative Spring Break** for children ages 6 to 15 March 9-13. Activities will be based on the following themes: Young Scientists, Healthy Habits, Environmental Day and Sports and Recreation Day. A field trip also is planned. To register, visit <http://asb2015.eventbrite.com>. The registration deadline is March 2. For more information, call the center at 882-4300.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

# POLICE REPORTS

*The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 31 and Feb. 4.*

**Jan. 31 5:27 p.m.:** While on patrol on University Boulevard, a University Police officer observed a man walking with blood coming from his nose. The man said he injured his nose after falling. The man declined several offers for medical assistance. The officer then provided first aid to contain the bleeding.

**Feb. 1 12:22 p.m.:** A resident at the Casa Bella student housing complex told University

Police officers that her wallet was stolen by her roommate and she wanted to file charges. The suspect was later interviewed and was read her Miranda rights. The roommate admitted to the officer that she took the wallet without consent. The property and its contents were returned to the reporting party. The roommate was released and a warrant will be obtained for her arrest.

**Feb. 3 12:42 p.m.:** A University Police officer met with a student who said she was offended by an anonymous post on a social media site. The post said there was a party in her dorm room. She responded

to the post, asking the person to stop posting the messages about her dorm room. The person removed the posts from the site.

**Feb. 4 3:47 p.m.:** A female student reported that a man made unwanted verbal contact on several occasions. The student said on one occasion the man kissed her hand and made her feel uncomfortable. University Police officers are conducting an investigation to identify the man. The student was advised to contact University Police if she encountered the man.

--Compiled by Kaila Contreras

## CASE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

areas.  
“We make sure we focus our efforts throughout the day in the Main Building and Main parking areas because that’s where the majority of our students are,” Ramos said. “So we will continue to do that as we’ve been doing.”

At 9:55 a.m. Feb. 3, a student called the Brownsville Police Department and told them he was forced at gunpoint by a man and a woman to take them from Lot A1 to the Whataburger on International Boulevard. When they arrived at the location, they released the student without harm and both suspects entered a black sedan and left the area.

The man was about 5 feet 10 inches tall with dark skin, black hair and had a

5 o’clock shadow. He was wearing a long, black-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, a black belt with a silver buckle and carrying a black semiautomatic pistol.

The woman was about 5 feet 6 inches tall with brown hair. She was barefoot and wearing a black jacket and blue jeans.

Both suspects are described as Hispanics in their mid-20s.

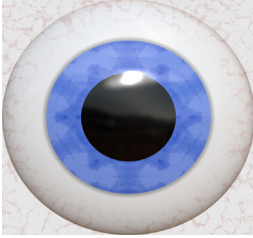
“We received a phone call from the Brownsville Police Department to inform us that this incident had occurred on our campus,” he said. “That’s when we started our investigation.”

Ramos said that case is still under investigation by University Police. He encourages students to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

“The No. 1 thing is be aware of your

surroundings,” he said.  
For emergencies on campus, call University Police at 882-2222.

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# Tension in SGA as VP resigns

Andrea Torres  
THE COLLEGIAN

Student Government Association Vice President of Administration Philip Martinez has resigned from his position, and the president's nominee for his replacement did not garner enough votes from the senate.

Reached by phone on Wednesday, Martinez declined to say why he resigned.

"Is it OK that we talk about that a little later?" he said. "There's a reason behind that, but it's not because I was going to quit SGA or anything like that. ... Can we give it a week?"

Asked the reason for the wait, Martinez replied: "I'm going to move to another position. That was planned, I guess."

During the senate's Feb. 6 meeting, SGA President Eréndira Santillana nominated Shangir Siddique, the current vice president of public relations, to replace Martinez.

Santillana said Siddique meets all the requirements because he's part of the student government and she believes "he

will be a great asset."

"He has helped me plan various events, including Dean's Luncheon, Pizza with the President," she said. "Shangir, to my understanding, is in at least three committees that are UTB and UTRGV related. And on behalf of former chair, Vice President Martinez, and myself, this is formally [a] nomination to the senate."

In accepting the nomination, Siddique said his main goal as vice president of administration would be "to empower the senate to reach its full potential."

Senator at Large Christian Miranda made a motion to table the appointment, but the motion failed when only seven senators voted in favor, five against and two abstained.

"I just feel the need of hearing it from Phil," Miranda said. "He sent an email throughout [Feb. 6], but he didn't say anything about resigning. I also think we are really, really into the semester to make a really, really big change."

SGA Adviser David Marquez said, "I understand the concern but we received Phil Martinez's resignation, so that seat



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Biology seniors Samantha Gomez (from left) and Elizabeth Rivera are sworn in as senators at large Feb. 6 by UTB Student Government Association President Eréndira Santillana.

is open. As advisers our responsibility is to make sure that resignations are submitted and they are submitted voluntarily. ... As far as his resignation,

it's been verified as legitimate and that seat is open."

School of Business Senator Sarah Galvan said: "We weren't given any formal notice. We didn't know Phil had resigned. This is the first we heard of the position even being available for someone to consider themselves to speak to the president and let her know that they're interested so they can go through the process that's required."

Liberal Arts Senator Miguel Gaytan said: "From my point of view, I'm seeing this was already arranged. 'Phil is out, let's nominate somebody else' without giving us notice."

Gaytan motioned for a recess so the senate could talk in private, and it passed.

When the senate returned to open session, Siddique took the floor.

"This original discussion has been going on for a very long time," he said. "I'm not going to talk about how long. ... When I became part of this discussion is when Eréndira started looking for other applicants. I was not asked if I have something against Phil. I was not asked if I think this was a good idea. I was asked that if the situation arose, would I be able to step up to the plate."

Siddique told the senators that if they thought he was "usurping power, I have about three weeks' worth of messages and emails."

"I will personally, no matter what the result of this meeting is, I will personally email to you—after telling Phil—saying that you're wrong," he said.

According to Article 2 of the SGA Constitution, the duties of the vice president of administration are as follows:

--to serve as presiding officer of the Student Senate;

--to perform the duties of the president in

See SGA, Page 6

# German student working at City Hall

Oscar Castillo  
WEBCAST EDITOR

Gina Vogt, a public management major from the University of Applied Sciences in Ludwigsburg, Germany, is serving an internship at City Hall while exploring the nature and customs of Brownsville.

"I just went to Google and chose the [southernmost] city," Vogt said in an interview with *The Collegian* when asked why she had chosen to do her internship in Brownsville. "I like the weather, that's the best thing about it, that's why I came in January. I love the nature. I don't think a lot of people appreciate it here, but I love the resacas and the palm trees."

Vogt is doing her internship at the city manager's office as she works toward her



KARINA AGUIRRE/COLLEGIAN

Gina Vogt

Days] yet, but everybody talks about it, so it would be something that is just from Brownsville."

Arnold Perez, organizational development manager in the city manager's office, said Vogt's responsibilities include creating video vignettes of activities that people can partake in "using our city facilities, our trails, our parks, just kind of the fun things to do here in Brownsville."

Perez said Vogt will work on the vignettes from scratch using the video editing software that is available to everyone in the main branch of the Brownsville Public Library on Central Boulevard.

Vogt approached the City of

## An Ocelot in Germany, Page 4

bachelor's degree. She must complete four internships, three in Germany and one abroad.

"I have to do [the internship] for three months, and so it has to cover different fields of my study," Vogt said. "For example, now I have to cover the field of leadership and management; that's why I applied to the City Manager's Office."

Asked what she would take back home from Brownsville, Vogt replied: "I would probably get myself something for Charro Days, like a blouse or something, and I think that's what I would take home because I don't know [Charro

# Club Spotlight

**Name:** Sigma Psi Delta

**Purpose:** To promote sisterhood and community service as well as uphold our symbols and bring female unity to the University of Texas at Brownsville campus. Community service, fundraising and social activities are of great importance to the sorority foundation.

**President:** Corinna Reyna

**Vice President:** Ana Keren Carretero

**Secretary:** Melanie Serrata

**Historian:** Daniela Saldivar

**Parliamentarian:** Daisy Reyes

**Adviser:** Monica Alvarado Revuelta, ASPIRE program director

**Activities:** Attends campus events and holds sorority socials.

**Community service:** Volunteers for or at Texas Adopt-a-Highway and Adopt-a-Beach, the Brownsville Literacy Center, Brownsville Children's Museum, CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates), Goodwill Industries International and the Texas Southmost College Arts Center.

**Achievements or awards:** Scorpion Circle: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012; Student Organization of the Year: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012; University Inner Circle: 2013 and 2014; and Greek Student Organization of the Year, 2013.

**Meetings:** 5 p.m. every Sunday.

**Membership requirements:** Must be a female UT Brownsville student with a 2.5 grade-point average or higher.

**For more information, contact:** Saldivar at 312-1589, email [sigmapsideltasorority@gmail.com](mailto:sigmapsideltasorority@gmail.com) or visit [www.sigmapsidelta.org](http://www.sigmapsidelta.org)

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Sigma Psi Delta sorority are (front row, from left) Parliamentarian Daisy Reyes and Paulina Mendoza. Back row: Alexandra Marino, President Corinna Reyna, Yessica Segura, Vice President Ana Keren Carretero, Secretary Melanie Serrata and Historian Daniela Saldivar.



# An Ocelot in Germany

**Editor’s Note:** Jose Martinez, who graduated from UT Brownsville with a master’s degree in physics in December, is now a doctoral student at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany. Here is what Martinez wrote about his arrival in Bonn.



I arrived at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy on Jan. 24. Been really busy getting settled in but everything is falling into place perfectly. I am currently living at the guest house of the institute, but I have found an apartment already (record time according to everyone here in the institute).

My apartment is about a 13-minute walk from the institute, which is perfect. Bus stop around the corner, and grocery stores 10-minute walk away. I will live in a neighborhood called Poppelsdorf, which is a very nice area of Bonn. My apartment is a good size for me, about 484 square feet. I have a bedroom, living area/dining area and a small kitchen. It’s at the third floor (top floor) of the apartment [building].

I also bought all the furniture of the old tenant for a great deal. I will buy his washing machine, kitchen, cabinets for kitchen, a couch, two chairs, coffee table, bed, closet, and a TV table, all for 300 euros! It’s a great relief because I won’t really need to buy any furniture at all and carry it three floors up. My landlords live downstairs and seem to be very nice people.

I have registered at the institute as an official Ph.D. student, got a German bank account, and have my own desk/shared office. I have cured my jet lag; it took me only 4 days :). Everyone here at

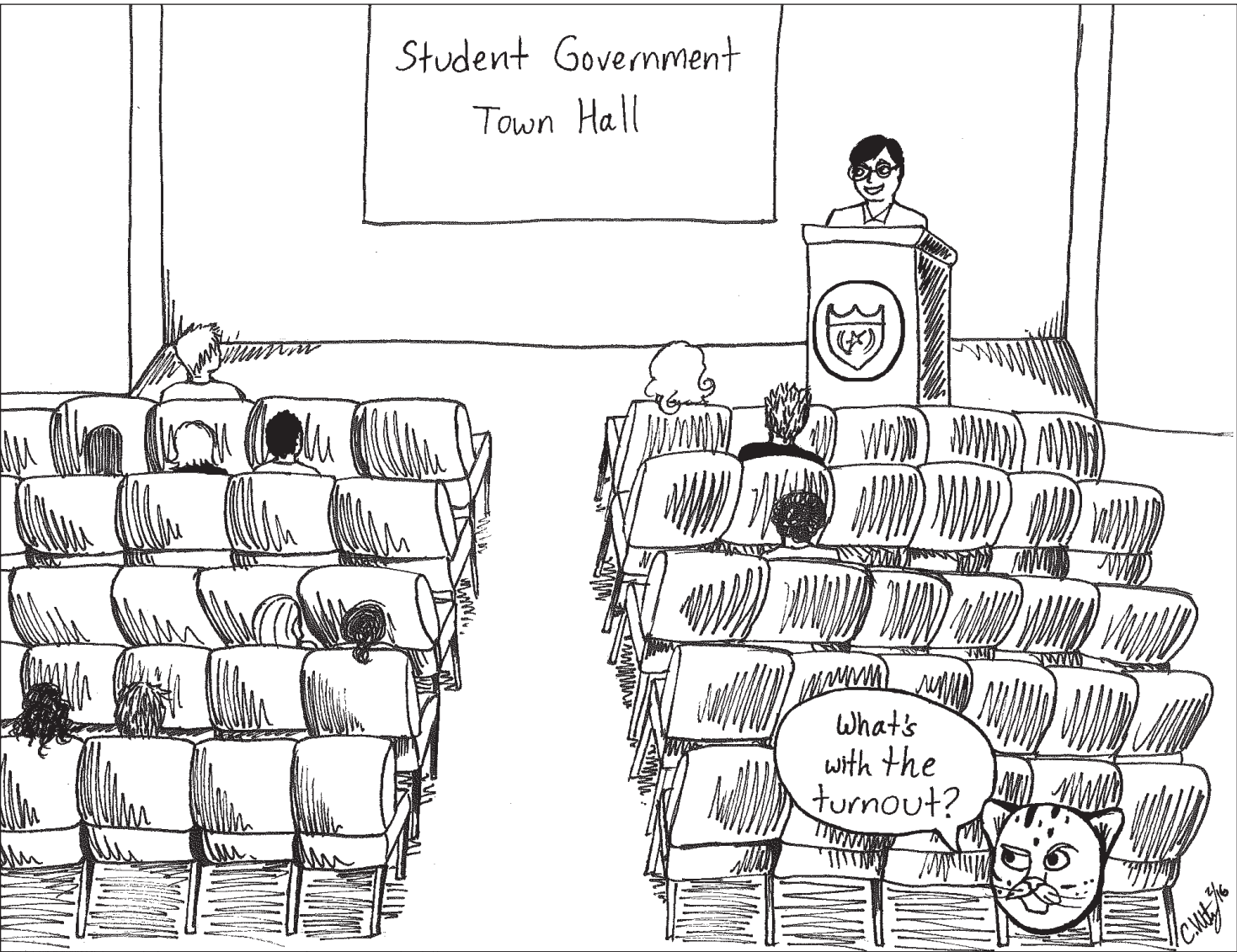
German student at City Hall, Page 3

the institute is very nice, welcoming and very understanding of giving me time to settle in. But they are surprised how fast I am doing everything. In my mind, the faster I get settled in, the faster I get to start working.

The Ph.D. program here is three years but a lot of students have to extend it to four years or longer. I really don’t want to stay here that long, so I’ll make sure to finish it in three years.

The weather here is a bit gloomy but I saw the sun for 20 minutes yesterday, which made me very happy. It snows sometimes; it is fun and a nice new experience for me. It snowed the day I arrived but I managed to get to my room with all my luggage. We are expecting snow again this weekend, so maybe I’ll make a snowman this time since I’ve never really made a snowman before in my life.

I’ll keep in touch every now and then. I hope to let you know of what new, exciting discoveries I will make here in Germany. *Voy a trabajar duro para salir adelante!*



## 15 Seconds: What do you think of the Vaqueros logo for UTRGV?



**Gael Romero**  
Psychology freshman  
Texas Southmost College

“I think nothing’s wrong with it. I think it’s just fine. A lot of people complain that the colors don’t match UTB’s and it’s more Pan Am than us, but I think it’s fine the way it is.”



**Julia Gonzalez**  
Education sophomore

“I really like the logo. It’s actually better than I expected. The colors really mesh well with the green and the orange, and I really think it represents UTRGV really well.”



**Ana Karen García**  
Estudiante de ciencias de biomedicina de primer año

*“La verdad, me gusta. Está muy padre. Está mejor el anterior pero los colores como que no combinan a la comunidad ni lo que es aquí Brownsville. Siento que deberían poner otros tipos de colores como rojos, naranjas o caféses”.*



**Luis Carmona**  
Biology sophomore

“I don’t really like it. I think the colors are a bit weird. The green and the orange kind of look like Gatorade a little bit. I like more the UTB’s blue and burnt orange. And I don’t really like the mascot either. Like, the Vaqueros doesn’t really seem appropriate to UTB. I would have preferred another mascot over the Vaqueros but, I mean, it kind of looks like the UTPA’s Broncos.”

Mystery Word

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as a student organization of UTB  
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Catholic Campus Ministry at UTB

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1910 University Blvd. Brownsville, TX 78520

## Free Pregnancy Testing



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Brownsville



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ValleyBaptist.net

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## New Financial Aid FAFSA Federal School Code:

# 003599

Use this number when applying for financial aid for Fall 2015. The school code is under the temporary name of The University of Texas Pan American during our transition to UTRGV.

### Dates to remember:

Financial aid funding is limited for many programs, so it's important for you to submit your materials on time.

- FAFSA priority deadline: **March 15**
- FAFSA state application deadline: **March 15**



utrgv.edu



# Mejorando el tratamiento para el cáncer de la próstata

Profesores de UTB y de UT M.D. Anderson reciben un patente para un marcador de resonancia magnética

Michelle N. García  
THE COLLEGIAN

Dos profesores han recibido un patente para un marcador de resonancia magnética diseñada para mejorar el tratamiento para el cáncer de la próstata. Karen Martirosyan, un profesor adjunto de física en UT Brownsville, y Dr. Steven Frank, un profesor adjunto, director médico del *Proton Center* y director de tecnología avanzada en oncología con radiación en UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, recibieron el patente en septiembre.

Martirosyan se unió a UTB en 2010 y desde entonces ha establecido dos laboratorios de física y el programa de nano-ciencia. Antes de llegar a UTB, fue un profesor adjunto en University of Houston, donde Frank se dirigió a él aproximadamente hace 10 años sobre una posible colaboración. La investigación empezó en University of Houston y en University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, que también está ubicada en Houston. “Estaba buscando a alguien que tuviera experiencia en la habilidad de desarrollar soluciones singulares y el agente de contraste”, Frank dijo en una entrevista telefónica con el *Collegian*. “Y él había estado trabajando en algunos proyectos adicionales en M.D. Anderson, y yo en cierto modo lo encontré. Lo llamé, me introduje, salimos, platicamos y discutimos la oportunidad de colaborar y empezamos a trabajar juntos”. Soma Mukherjee, jefe del departamento de física y astronomía de UTB, dijo que el agente de contraste que ellos desarrollaron “será muy importante



Kaila Contreras/Collegian

El patente del marcador de resonancia magnética obtenido por el profesor adjunto de física Karen Martirosyan.

para escaneo médico y terapia, especialmente en el caso de cáncer”. Un agente de contraste es algo que se usa para mejorar la visibilidad del cuerpo interno con resonancia magnética, de acuerdo a [insideradiology.com](#). El patente se titula “*MRI Markers, Delivery and Extraction Systems, and Methods of Manufacture and Use Thereof*” y es el segundo patente que los profesores reciben al respecto de esta investigación. El primer patente se titula “*Seeds and Markers for Use in Imaging*”, que fue expedida en septiembre 2013. El patente más reciente es para un agente de contraste y escaneo amarillo de cobalto no tóxico, que será usado para mejorar la resonancia magnética para el cáncer de próstata y braquiterapia. “Esto es un aparato médico, que llamamos marcadores de resonancia magnética”, Martirosyan dijo. “Esto es básicamente para tratamiento de resonancia magnética o para la próstata y braquiterapia”. Braquiterapia es un tratamiento para cáncer avanzado que consiste en implantar semillas de titanio radioactivas en o cerca del tumor, de acuerdo a [brachytherapy.com](#). Las semillas son un modo de llevar la radiación directamente al tumor. Este procedimiento permite una dosis más alta de radiación a un lugar más específico mientras disminuye la exposición de radiación a otras partes del cuerpo. Estos marcadores ayudan a identificar las semillas de titanio que están implantadas en la próstata con el uso de resonancia magnética, algo que, Martirosyan dijo, no era posible antes. “El problema que encontré fue que las semillas radioactivas, cuando las ponías en la próstata, no las podías ver con resonancia magnética”, Frank dijo. “Y, por eso, estaba buscando una manera de encenderlas para que pudiéramos saber exactamente donde pusimos la radiación usando la mejor herramienta de escaneo, que es la resonancia magnética”. Los marcadores de resonancia magnética han sido aprobados por la Administración de Medicamentos y Alimentación (FDA, por sus siglas en inglés) desde 2013. “Empezamos a trabajar juntos, creamos estos nuevos marcadores para resonancia magnética y los procedimientos y también diseñamos el marcador”, Martirosyan dijo sobre su colaboración con Frank. “También, las partículas activas de los marcadores, que serán visibles por medio de resonancia magnética”. En marzo 2014, el primer paciente fue implantado con este marcador de resonancia magnética y desde entonces, nueve pacientes más han tenido los implantes. Frank continúa con más investigación en M.D. Anderson Cancer Center con la ayuda de varios estudiantes. UTB no tiene el equipo adecuado para continuar parte de la investigación en el campus de UTB. Sin embargo, Martirosyan está trabajando con dos estudiantes doctorales, cuatro

estudiantes de maestría y como 10 estudiantes de bachillerato en otros proyectos de investigación, incluyendo el programa de nano-ciencia. Frank y Martirosyan creen que hay mucha potencia para este marcador de resonancia magnética. Dijeron que también se puede usar para otros tipos de cáncer, como cáncer del seno, tumores ginecológicos, cáncer del pulmón o cualquier otro cáncer que use semillas radioactivas como parte del tratamiento, un próximo paso posible es adquirir aprobación de la FDA para uso en tratamiento de otros cánceres. Frank dijo que su meta para los marcadores de resonancia magnética es hacerlos visibles universalmente con cualquier modalidad de escaneo y no solo para resonancia magnética. Por ahora, se ha registrado la marca del primer marcador de resonancia magnética como *Sirius*, nombrado después de la estrella más brillante. “Esto ha sido una gran relación con el Dr. Martirosyan, y él es un científico brillante y he disfrutado de nuestra colaboración trabajando juntos para ayudar a mejorar el cuidado de cáncer para los pacientes”, Frank dijo. La tecnología del marcador de resonancia magnética fue licenciada desde M.D. Anderson y University of Houston a una compañía de arranque llamada *C4 Imaging* con Frank como fundador y director médico y Martirosyan como cofundador y director de tecnología. El presidente ejecutivo de la compañía es Andrew Bright, anterior vicepresidente de ventas globales y mercadotecnia y vicepresidente de braquiterapia en Oncura (un negocio de asistencia médica de GE), de acuerdo a la página de Internet de *C4 Imaging*.

## SGA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the temporary absence of the president; --should the office of the president become permanently vacant, the vice president of administration shall assume the office of president and call an SGA

## PATENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we went out, talked and discussed the opportunities for collaboration and we started working together.”

Soma Mukherjee, chair of UTB’s Physics and Astronomy Department, said the contrast agent they developed “is going to be very important for medical imaging and therapy, especially in case of cancer.” A contrast agent is a substance used to improve the visibility of the internal body with MRI, according to [insideradiology.com](#). The patent is titled “MRI Markers, Delivery and Extraction Systems, and Methods of Manufacture and Use Thereof” and is the second patent the professors received regarding this research. The first patent is titled “Seeds and Markers for Use in Imaging,” which was issued in September 2013. The latest patent is for a non-toxic cobalt-based contrast and imaging agent, which will be used to help improve MRI imaging for prostate cancer and brachytherapy. “This is a medical device, which we call MRI markers,” Martirosyan said. “This is basically for MRI treatment or for prostate and brachytherapy.” Brachytherapy is an advanced cancer

meeting within two weeks to appoint a new vice president of administration. When the motion was made to appoint Siddique as vice president of administration, 10 voted in favor, but he needed 13 votes, or two-thirds of the votes, so the motion failed. Asked about the vacancy, Santillana told *The Collegian*: “I’m currently in

treatment that consists of implanting radioactive titanium seeds in or near the tumor, according to [brachytherapy.com](#). The seeds are a means to get the radiation directly to the tumor. This procedure permits a higher dose of radiation to a more specific location while minimizing the radiation exposure to other parts of the body. These markers help identify the titanium seeds that are implanted in the prostate with the use of an MRI, something that, Martirosyan said, was not possible before. “The problem that I found is that the radioactive seeds, when you put them in the prostate, you couldn’t see them in MRI,” Frank said. “And, therefore, I was looking for a way to light them up so that we can know exactly where we placed the radiation utilizing the best imaging tool, which is MRI.” The MRI markers have been FDA approved since 2013. “We started to work together, we came out with these new MRI markers and the procedure and also designed the marker,” Martirosyan said of his collaboration with Frank. “Also, the active particles of the markers, which will be MRI visualized.” In March 2014, the first patient was implanted with this MRI marker and since then, nine other patients have had

the process, you know, of interviewing people. Certain that I will bring my appointment forward because I feel he is my strongest candidate as of right now. Nonetheless, if there’s anyone out there that meets the requirement, which is at least one semester of being an official SGA, they have all the rights, by all means, being interviewed by myself and

the implants as well. Frank continues further research at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center with the help of several students. UTB does not have the proper equipment to continue part of the research at the UTB campus. However, Martirosyan is working with two doctoral students, four master’s students and about 10 undergraduate students in other research projects, including the nanoscience program. Frank and Martirosyan believe there is much more potential for this MRI marker. They said it could also be used for other types of cancers, such as breast cancer, gynecological tumors, lung cancer or any other cancer that uses radioactive seeds as part of the treatment. Since the FDA only approved the MRI markers for use in brachytherapy and prostate cancer treatment, a possible next step is to get FDA approval for use in other cancer treatments. Frank said his goal for the MRI markers is to make them universally visible with any imaging modality and not just for MRI. For now, the first MRI marker has been trademarked as *Sirius*, named after the brightest star. “This has been a wonderful relationship with Dr. Martirosyan, and he’s a brilliant scientist and I’ve enjoyed our collaboration working together to help

going through the whole process.” In other business, the SGA voted to appoint biology seniors Samantha Gomez and Elizabeth Rivera as senators at large. The next SGA meeting is scheduled at 5 p.m. Friday in Main Building Room 2.504.

improve the cancer care for patients,” Frank said. The MRI marker technology was licensed out of M.D. Anderson and the University of Houston and into a startup company called C4 Imaging with Frank as the founder and chief medical officer, and Martirosyan as co-founder and chief technology officer. The company’s CEO is Andrew Bright, former vice president of Global Sales and Marketing and vice president of Brachytherapy at Oncura (A GE Healthcare business), according to the C4 Imaging website.

## REGENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

options the university chooses, including nicknames nominated by students and approved by the university.” HB 901 is expected to be referred this week, according to Canales’ District 40 office. Canales could not be reached for comment. In their meeting, the regents also approved the transfer of tenure appointments for UT Brownsville and UT Pan American faculty to UTRGV.



# Wide-ranging palette

‘Faculty Show’ works explore spirituality, pop culture and today’s headlines



HÉCTOR AGUILAR/COLLEGIAN

Junior art major Melissa Vega examines UTB Visual Arts Chair Carlos G. Gómez’s “The Perfect American Figure” (oil on a gessoed panel painting).

**Kaila Contreras**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

About 40 people attended the UT Brownsville “Faculty Show” Tuesday night at the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall. Visual Arts Department Chair Carlos G. Gómez and Lecturers Alejandro Macias, Rick Fatica, Julian Rodriguez and Stephen Hawks presented artwork on a variety of themes ranging from the beheadings in the Mideast to pop culture. “I’ve been making art since I was a little kid and I’ve been making ceramics and I’ve actually been selling my work since I was a teenager,” Hawks said. “I worked 20 years as a potter but I also painted. In this show, I got the pottery because I demonstrate for my classes; I mean, just about any art that I’ve come across influences me in some way.” Hawks’ work included ceramics titled “The Four Faces of Buba” and “Show Your Wound/Cruciform Totem” and the collage “Just Past the 50 Mile Mark.” Fatica displayed his photography, including “Hope,” “View” and “Hands.” “For me, it’s about spirituality and a greater understanding of being connected to a power greater than myself, like God or finding truth,” he told *The Collegian*

about what kind of message he wants people to get from looking at his artwork. Fatica said it can take him up to 40 hours to create his artwork. Macias, whose paintings at the exhibit included “Reflection,” “Paul” and “Yorke,” said a lot of pop culture influences his art. One of the pieces that he has more of a connection with is “Reflection,” which depicts a naked woman looking at her reflection in the water. Instead of her face, the water reflects a skull. “I hold even more dearly the 4-by-4 [“Reflection”] because it took me such a long time and it was such a battle that it was almost like this--we almost formed this bond over time because it took forever, but I wouldn’t say I have a favorite,” he said. Junior art major Martha Ortiz said it was interesting to see her professors’ artwork. “I encourage people to come and see [the exhibit] because we have a lot of talent in the art program and many people don’t know about it, so I think it’s a good investment of everyone’s time,” Ortiz said. The “Faculty Show” continues through March 6. Admission is \$1. For gallery hours, call 882-7097.

# Senate plan presented

Officials unveil draft of UTRGV senate constitution

**Andrea Torres**  
THE COLLEGIAN

The proposed constitution for the student government of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley calls for 40 senators, 10 executive seats and a judicial branch. Nine members of the Student Government Association of UT Brownsville and UT Pan American, as well as seven administrators from both campuses came together to form the Constitutional Convention Committee and draft the document. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is scheduled to open in Fall 2015. Town hall meetings were held last week on both campuses to gather student input. Only 16 students attended the meetings at UTB. UTB Dean of Students Doug Stoves and Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities David Marquez conducted the first meeting, while SGA Vice President of Public Relations Shangir Siddique led the second. Both meetings were held Tuesday in the Gran Salón. The proposed constitution calls for three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. The executive branch would include one president, two vice presidents (one from each campus), one chief of staff and five executive officers. The president and vice presidents would be able “run for office on a single slate and elected by a plurality of votes cast.” Both undergraduate and graduate students are able to run for these positions on the condition that they have completed or transferred a total of 30 or more credit hours. Positions for the executive cabinet include chief of staff, secretary of administration, secretary of campus life, committees and councils, secretary of communication, secretary of finance, secretary of graduate affairs and first-year internship director. “The president and vice presidents will run as a slate, so they are all going to run together,” Stoves said. “They are going to be elected by the plurality of the votes cast.” Executive cabinet positions must be appointed by the president and approved by two-thirds vote of the senate. The First Year Internship program, which exists in UTPA’s SGA constitution, will be included in UTRGV’s. “It is for students who may not otherwise qualify for office, who are interested in SGA,” Stoves said. “This gives them an opportunity to get a taste of what SGA is about, learn a little bit more about student governance in hopes that then they become active members in the SGA.” Asked if it would apply to students in their first year of being in the student government or just students in their first year of college, Marquez replied: “From what I understand, it will be available to either. Freshman, as it corresponds to experience from the senate. ...One of those [eligibility requirements] is that they would have to have been a student enrolled in at least one long semester or two summer sessions. So suppose it’s a student who is coming in for the first time, they can’t technically be part of senate, but they can be part of this group.” The legislative branch calls for a total of 40 senators and three officers: chair of the senate, sergeant at arms and secretary.



OSCAR CASTILLO/COLLEGIAN

David Marquez, director of Student Rights and Responsibilities, explains the proposed student government constitution for the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley during a Town Hall meeting held Tuesday in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

equal representation on both campuses, the proposed constitution structures the senate as follows: --four senators per undergraduate academic college (at least one senator must be from a different location) --four graduate senators (two from Brownsville, two from Edinburg) --eight senators at large (four, Brownsville and four, Edinburg) These positions would be elected by the plurality of votes cast. One of the requirements is that “at the time of assuming office, the senator must have completed at least one fall or spring semester or two summer sessions.” The judicial branch calls for one chief justice, two associate justices from Brownsville and two from Edinburg, one faculty and/or staff associate justice from Brownsville and Edinburg. The administrative adviser for the student government will be the dean of students or a designee appointed by the dean. The constitution committee was scheduled to meet with a UT System representative again last Friday to try to finalize the constitution. “Right now, it is in draft mode, so when we finalize it we want to be able to present to the campuses online and send a notice to students where they can find it to review the different elements, different articles of the constitution,” said Mari Fuentes-Martin, UTRGV’s associate vice president of student life and dean of students. Fuentes-Martin said the committee’s goal is to have students vote on the constitution the last week of February, set up election guidelines, solicit nominations and hold elections in March and April. Among the students who attended the town hall meetings was psychology freshman Marisa Cisneros. “It’s pretty informative, I guess, just relying on the structure only,” Cisneros said. “That’s really what I wanted to hear. I have no idea how these things usually go. So this was pretty basic. I learned a lot today.”

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